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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,618	02/27/2002	Yukio Uenaka	P21666	1809

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

SMITH, ARTHUR A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/083,618

Applicant(s)

UENAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Arthur A Smith

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawasaki et al. (USPN 5068680), supplied by applicant.

In reference to claim 1, Kawasaki et al. discloses an interchangeable lens camera system having a camera body, ref. 101, a photographing lens, ref. 15, and a rear converter, ref. 611, which can be mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens, said camera body having a first group of contacts, ref. 675, said photographing lens having a second group of contacts, ref. 775, said camera body and said photographing lens communicating with each other via said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts with said first group of contacts being electrically connected with said second group of contacts, col. 7 line 64 - col. 8 line 15, respectively, wherein said rear converter comprises: a group of relay channels via which said first group of contacts of said camera body are electrically connected with said second group of contacts of said photographing lens, respectively, in a state where said rear converter is mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens, col. 7 lines 49 - 63; a rear converter memory, ref. 619, in which rear converter data on said rear converter is stored, said rear converter memory including at least one port

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electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels, col. 8 lines 16-22; and a rear converter controller, ref. 683 and 685, which controls a reading operation of said rear converter data from said rear converter memory, said rear converter controller including at least one port electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel, ref. 695c, of said group of relay channels, col. 15 lines 9-25; wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function to send said rear converter data to said camera body while said camera body and said photographing lens communicate with each other via said first group of contacts, said second group of contacts, and said group of relay channels, col. 15 lines 26-35.

In reference to claim 3, Kawasaki et al. discloses wherein said body controller, ref. 105, is electrically connected to said rear converter controller, ref. 683 and 688, via a first communication/control contact, ref. 695c, of each of said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts, ref. 775c, and a data I/O contact, ref. 675b, of each of said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts, 775b; wherein said photographing lens includes a lens controller, ref. 683 and 685, which communicates with said body controller; and wherein said body controller is electrically connected to said lens controller via said first communication/control contact, a second communication/control contact of each of said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts, and at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels, wherein a handshake operation is performed between said body controller and said lens controller via said second communication/control contact, col. 14 lines 32-53.

In reference to claim 7, Kawasaki et al. discloses a rear converter, ref. 611, which can be mounted between a camera body, ref. 101, and a photographing lens, ref. 15, of an interchangeable lens camera system, said camera body having a first group of contacts, ref. 675, said photographing lens having a second group of contacts, ref. 775, said camera body and said photographing lens communicating with each other via said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts with said first group of contacts being electrically connected to said second group of contacts, col. 7 line 64 - col. 8 line 15, respectively, wherein said rear converter comprises: a group of relay channels via which said first group of contacts of said camera body are electrically connected with said second group of contacts of said photographing lens, respectively, in a state where said rear converter is mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens, col. 7 lines 49-63; a rear converter memory, ref. 619, in which rear converter data is stored, said rear converter memory including ports electrically connected to at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels, col. 8 lines 16-22; and a rear converter controller which controls a reading operation of said rear converter data from said rear converter memory, said rear converter controller including ports electrically connected to at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels, col. 15 lines 9-25; wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function to send said rear converter data to said camera body while said camera body and said photographing lens communicate with each other via said first group of contacts, said second group of contacts, and said group of relay channels, col. 15 lines 26-35.

In reference to claim 8, Kawasaki et al. discloses wherein each of said first group of contact, ref. 675, and said second group of contacts comprises, ref. 775: a first communication/control contact, ref 675c, via which said body controller sends a control signal to said lens controller; a second communication/control contact, ref. 775c, via which said lens controller sends a control signal to said body controller; and a data I/O contact, ref. 675b, for data communication; wherein said first communication/control contact, said second communication/control contact, and said data I/O contact of said first group of contacts are electrically connected to said first communication/control contact, said second communication/control contact and said data I/O contact of said second group of contacts, respectively, via said group of relay channels; wherein said rear converter memory, ref. 619, and said rear converter controller, ref 683 and 685, are electrically connected to relay channels of said group of relay channels which correspond to said first communication/control contact and said data I/O contact; and wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function to send said rear converter data to said camera body after a commencement of a handshake operation between said body controller and said lens controller via said second communication/control contact in the case where said camera body commands said rear converter controller to send said rear converter data via said data I/O contact, col. 14 lines 32-53.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 4-6 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to teach or disclose the claimed limitation of wherein said camera body comprises a body controller which communicates with said lens memory to read said photographing lens data from said lens memory; wherein a portion of said photographing lens data serves as dummy data for said rear converter; and wherein said rear converter data is read out of said rear converter memory to be transmitted to said body controller in synchronization with an operation of said body controller in which said body controller.

Conclusion

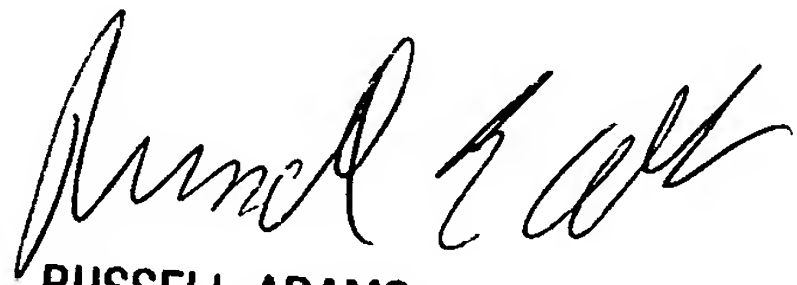
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Iijima (USPN 5548369) discloses a rear converter with a rear converter memory and controller, see fig. 4.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arthur A Smith whose telephone number is (703) 605 1228. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays during the same hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on (703) 308 2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872 9318 for regular communications and (703) 872 9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.

AAS
March 6, 2003



RUSSELL ADAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800